

S W A

- How soon doth man decay!
When cloths are taken from a chest of sweets,
To *swaddle* infants, whose young breath
Scarce knows the way;
Those cloths are little winding sheets,
Which do consign and fend them unto death. *Herbert.*
They *swaddled* me up in my night-gown with long pieces of
linen, till they had wrapt me in about an hundred yards of
swathe. *Addison.*
2. To beat; to cudgel. A low ludicrous word.
Great on the bench, great in the saddle,
That could as well bind o'er as *swaddle*. *Hindibras.*
- SWADDLE. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Cloaths bound round the
body.
I begged them to uncase me: no, no, say they; and upon
that carried me to one of their houses, and put me to bed in
all my *swaddies*. *Addison.*
- SWADDLING-BAND. *n. f.* [from *swaddle*.] Cloth wrapped
SWADDLING-CLOATH. *n. f.* round a new-born child.
From thence a fairy three unweeting reft,
There as thou slepest in tender *swaddling* bands,
And her base elfin brood, there for thee left,
Such men do changelings call, so changed by faeries theft. *Fairy Queen.*
- That great baby you see there is not yet out of his *swaddling*-
elms. *Shakespeare. Hamlet.*
- The *swaddling* bands were purple, wrought with gold. *Dryden.*
- TO SWAG. *v. n.* [Irish, Saxon; *swaig*, Islandick.] To
sink down by its weight; to lay heavy.
They are more apt, in *swagging* down, to pierce with their
points, than in the jacent posture, and crevice the wall. *Hart.*
Being a tall fish, and with his sides much compressed, he
hath a long fin upon his back, and another answering to it on
his belly; by which he is the better kept upright, or from
swagging on his sides. *Greiv.*
- TO SWAGE. *v. a.* [from *affuage*.] To ease; to soften; to mi-
tigate.
Apt words have pow'r to *swage*
The tumours of a troubled mind,
And are as balm to fester'd wounds. *Milton.*
Nor wanting pow'r to mitigate and *swage*,
With solemn touches, troubled thoughts, and chafe
Anguish, and doubt, and fear from mortal minds. *Milton.*
I will love thee,
Though my distracted senses should forsake me,
I'd find some intervals, when my poor heart
Should *swage* itself, and be lost loose to thine. *Ottway.*
- TO SWAGGER. *v. n.* [from *swagger*, Dutch, to make a noise;
Irish, Saxon.] To bluster; to bully; to be turbulently and
tumultuously proud and insolent.
Drunk? squabble? *swagger*? and discourse fustian with
one's own shadow? Oh thou invincible spirit of wine! *Shak.*
'Tis the gage of one that I should fight withal, if he be
alive; a rascal that *swagger'd* with me last night. *Shakespeare.*
Of a terrible oath, with a *swaggering* accent sharply twang'd
off, gives manhood more approbation than proof itself. *Shak.*
The lesser size of mortals love to *swagger* for opinions, and
to boast infallibility of knowledge. *Glavin. Scyth.*
Many such asses in the world huff, look big, stare, drefs,
cock, and *swagger* at the same noisy rate. *L'Estrange.*
He cluck'd,
And scarcely deign'd to set a foot to ground,
But *swagger'd* like a lord. *Dryden.*
Confidence, how weakly forever founded, hath some effect
upon the ignorant, who think there is something more than
ordinary in a *swaggering* man that talks of nothing but de-
monstration. *Tillotson.*
To be great, is not to be starched, and formal, and superci-
lious; to *swagger* at our footmen, and browbeat our infe-
riors. *Collier on Pride.*
What a pleasure is it to be victorious in a cause? to *swag-
ger* at the bar? for a lawyer I was born, and a lawyer I will
be. *Arbutnot's History of John Bull.*
- SWAGGERER. *n. f.* [from *swagger*.] A blusterer; a bully; a
turbulent noisy fellow.
He's no *swaggerer*, hostess; a tame cheater: you may stroke
him as gently as a puppy greyhound. *Shakespeare. Henry IV.*
- SWAGGY. *adj.* [from *swag*.] Dependent by its weight.
The beaver is called animal ventricosum, from his *swaggy*
and prominent belly. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- SWAIN. *n. f.* [Irish, Saxon and Runick.]
1. A young man.
That good knight would not so nigh repair,
Himself efranging from their joyance vain,
Whose fellowship seem'd far unfit for warlike *swain*. *F. 2.*
2. A country servant employed in husbandry.
It were a happy life
To be no better than a homely *swain*. *Shak. Henry VI.*
3. A pastoral youth.
Blest *swains*! whose nymphs in ev'ry grace excel;
Blest nymphs! whose *swains* those graces sing so well. *Pope.*

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- SWAINMOTE. *n. f.* [from *swainmote*, law Lat.] A court touching
matters of the forest, kept by the charter of the forest three
times in the year. This court of *swainmote* is as incident to a forest,
as the court of piepowder is to a fair. The *swainmote* is a
court of freeholders within the forest. *Cowell.*
- TO SWALE. *v. a.* [Irish, Saxon, to kindle.] To waste or
To SWEAL. *v. a.* blaze away; to melt: as, the candle swales.
SWALET. *n. f.* Among the tin-miners; water breaking in
upon the miners at their work. *Bailey.*
- SWALLOW. *n. f.* [Irish, Saxon.] A small bird of pas-
sage, or, as some say, a bird that lies hid and sleeps in the
winter.
The *swallow* follows not Summer more willingly than we
your lordship. *Shak. Timon of Athens.*
- SWALLOW. *v. a.* [Irish, Saxon; *swalgen*, Dutch.]
1. To take down the throat.
I *swallow* down my spite. *Job vii. 19.*
If little faults
Shall not be wink'd at, how shall we stretch our eyes,
Whose capital crimes chew'd *swallows*, and digested,
Appear before us? *Shakespeare's Henry V.*
Men are, at a venture, of the religion of the country; and
must therefore *swallow* down opinions, as silly people do em-
piricks pills, and have nothing to do but believe that they will
do the cure. *Locke.*
2. To receive without examination.
Consider and judge of it as a matter of reason, and not
swallow it without examination as a matter of faith. *Locke.*
3. To engross; to appropriate.
Far be it from me, that I should *swallow* up or destroy. *2Sa.*
Homer exceeds all the inventors of other arts in this, that he
has *swallowed* up the honour of those who succeeded him. *Pope.*
4. To absorb; to take in; to sink in any abyss; to engulf.
Though you untie the winds, and let them fight
Against the churches, though the yesty waves
Confound and *swallow* navigation up. *Shakespeare.*
I may be pluck'd into the *swallowing* womb
Of this deep pit, poor Bassianus' grave. *Shak. Tit. Andron.*
Death is *swallowed* up in victory. *1 Cor. xv. 54.*
If the earth open her mouth and *swallow* them up, ye shall
understand that these men have provoked the Lord. *Lam. xvi.*
In bogs *swallow'd* up and lost.
He hid many things from us, not that they would *swallow*
up our understanding, but divert our attention from what is
more important. *Deacy of Piety.*
- Nature would abhor
To be forced back again upon herself,
And like a whirlpool *swallow* her own streams. *Dryden and Let's Oedipus.*
- Should not the sad occasion *swallow* up
My other cares, and draw them all into it? *Addison.*
Cities overturn'd,
And late at night in *swallowing* earthquake funk. *Thomson.*
5. To devour; to destroy.
The necessary provision for life *swallows* the greatest part of
their time. *Locke.*
Corruption *swallow'd* what the liberal hand
Of bounty scatter'd. *Thomson's Autumn.*
6. To be lost in any thing; to be given up.
The priest and the prophet are *swallowed* up of wine. *If.*
- SWALLOW. *n. f.* [from the verb.] The throat; voracity.
Had this man of merit and mortification been called to ac-
count for his ungodly *swallows*, in gorging down the estates of
helpless widows and orphans, he would have told them that it
was all for charitable uses. *South.*
- SWALLOWTAIL. *n. f.* A species of willow.
The shining willow they call *swallowtail*, because of the
pleasure of the leaf. *Bacon's Natural History.*
- SWALLOWWORT. *n. f.* A plant.
SWAMP. The preterite of *swim*.
SWAMP. *n. f.* [from *swamm*, Gothic; *swan*, Saxon; *swamm*,
Islandick; *swanms*, Dutch; *swamp*, Danish; *swamp*, Swedish.]
A marsh; a bog; a fen.
SWAMPY. *adj.* [from *swamp*.] Boggy; fenny. *Thomson.*
Swampy fens breathe destructive myriads.
- SWAN. *n. f.* [Irish, Saxon; *swan*, Danish; *swan*, Dutch.]
The swan is a large water-fowl, that has a long and very
straight neck, and is very white, excepting when it is young.
Its legs and feet are black, as is its bill, which is like that of
a goose, but something rounder, and a little hooked at the
lower end of it: the two sides below its eyes are black and
shining like ebony. Swans use wings like sails, which catch
the wind, so that they are driven along in the water. They feed

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- feed upon herbs and some sort of grain like a goose, and some
are said to have lived three hundred years. There is a species
of swans with the feathers of their heads, towards the breast,
marked at the ends with a gold colour inclining to red. The
swan is reckoned by Moles among the unclean creatures; but
it was consecrated to Apollo the god of music, because it was
said to sing melodiously when it was near expiring; a tradition
generally received, but fabulous. *Calmet.*
- With untainted eye
Compare her face with some that I shall show,
And I will make thee think thy *swan* a crow. *Shakespeare.*
Let music sound, while he duth make his choice;
Then if he love, he makes a *swan* like end. *Shakespeare.*
- I have seen a *swan*,
With bootless labour, swim against the tide,
And spend her strength with over-matching waves. *Shakespeare.*
The birds easy to be drawn are planipedes, or water-fowl,
as the mallard, goose, and *swan*. *Peacham on Drawing.*
The fearful matrons raise a screaming cry;
Old feeble men with fainter groans reply;
A jarring sound refuses, and mingles in the sky,
Like that of *swans* returning to the floods. *Dryden.*
The idea, which an Englishman signifies by the name *swan*,
is a white colour, long neck, black beak, black legs, and whole
feet, and all these of a certain size, with a power of swim-
ming in the water, and making a certain kind of noise. *Locke.*
- SWANSON. *n. f.* [from *swan* and *son*.] A kind of soft flannel,
imitating for warmth the down of a swan.
- SWAP. *adv.* [from *swaipa*, to do at a snatch, Islandick.] Hastily;
with hasty violence: as, he did it *swap*. A low word.
- TO SWAP. *v. a.* To exchange. See TO SWOP.
- SWARD. *n. f.* [from *svard*, Swedish.]
1. The skin of bacon.
2. The surface of the ground: whence *green swards*, or *green
sward*.
Water, kept too long, loosens and softens the *sward*, makes
it subject to rushes and coarse grass. *Nate on 1st cr.*
The noon of night was past, when the foe
Came dreading o'er the level *swart*, that lies
Between the wood and the swift streaming Ouse. *A. Philips.*
To plant a vineyard in July, when the earth is very dry
and combustible, plow up the *swarth*, and burn it. *Mortimer.*
- SWARE. The preterite of *swear*.
SWARM. *n. f.* [Irish, Saxon; *swarm*, Dutch.]
1. A great body or number of bees or other small animals, par-
ticularly those bees that migrate from the hive.
A *swarm* of bees that cut the liquid sky,
Upon the topmost branch in clouds alight. *Dryden's Æn.*
2. A multitude; a crowd.
From this *swarm* of fair advantages,
You grip'd the general sway into your hand,
Forgot your oath to us at Doncaster. *Shakespeare.*
If we could number up those prodigious *swarms* that had
settled themselves in every part of it, they would amount to
more than can be found. *Addison on Italy.*
- TO SWARM. *v. n.* [Irish, Saxon; *swarmen*, Dutch.]
1. To rise as bees in a body, and quit the hive.
All hands employ'd,
Like labouring bees on a long Summer's day;
Some found the trumpet for the rest to *swarm*. *Dryden.*
Swarm'd on a rotten tick the bees I spy'd. *Gay.*
When bees hang in *swarming* time, they will presently rise,
if the weather hold. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
2. To appear in multitudes; to crowd; to throng.
The merciless Macdonel,
The multiplying villanies of nature
Do *swarm* upon. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*
Our superfluous lacqueys, and our peasants,
Who in unnecessary action *swarm*
About our squares of battle. *Shakespeare. Henry V.*
What a multitude of thoughts at once
Awaken'd in me *swarm*, while I consider
What from within I feel myself, and hear
What from without comes often to my ears. *Milton.*
Then mounts the throne, high plac'd before the shrine;
In crowds around the *swarming* people join. *Dryden's Æn.*
3. To be crowded; to be over-run; to be thronged.
These garbisons you have now planted throughout all Ire-
land, and every place *swarm* with soldiers. *Spenser.*
Her lower region *swarms* with all sort of fowl, her rivers
with fish, and her seas with whole shoals. *Hewel.*
Those days *swarmed* with fables, and from such grounds
took hints for fictions, poisoning the world ever after. *Brown.*
4. To breed multitudes.
Not so thick *swarm'd* once the foil
Bedropp'd with blood of Gorgon. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
- SWART. *adj.* [from *swart*, Gothic; *swarte*, Saxon; *swart*,
Dutch.]
1. Black; darkly brown; tawney.
A nation strange, with visage *swart*,
And courage fierce, that all men did affray,
Through the world then *swarmed* in every part. *F. Queen.*

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- A man
Of *swarth* complexion, and of crabbed hue,
That him full of melancholy did shew. *Fairy Queen.*
Whereas I was black and *swart* before;
With those clear rays which she infus'd on me. *Shak. H. VI.*
That beauty am I blest with; which you see.
No goblin, or *swart* fairy of the mine, *Addison.*
Hath hurtful power o'er true virginity.
In *Milton* it seems to signify black; gloomy; malignant.
Ye valleys low,
On whose fresh lap the *swart* star sparsely looks. *Milton.*
- TO SWART. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To blacken; to
dull.
The heat of the sun may *swart* a living part, or even black
a dead or dissolving flesh. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- SWARTILY. *adv.* [from *swartly*.] Blackly; darkly; taw-
nily.
- SWARTINESS. *n. f.* [from *swartly*.] Darkness of complexion;
tawnyness.
- SWARTHY. *adj.* [See SWART.] Dark of complexion; black;
dusky; tawney.
Set me where, on some pathless plain,
The *swartly* Africans complain. *Reverend.*
Though in the torrid climates the common colour is black
or *swartly*, yet the natural colour of the temperate climates is
more transparent and beautiful. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*
Here *swartly* Charles appears, and there *Addison.*
His brother with dejected air,
Did they know Cato, our remotest kings
Would pour embattled multitudes about him;
Their *swartly* hosts would darken all our plains,
Doubling the native horror of the war, *Addison's Cato.*
And making death more grim.
- SWASH. *n. f.* [A cant word.] A figure, whose circumference
is not round, but oval; and whose moldings lie not at right
angles, but oblique to the axis of the work. *Addison.*
- TO SWASH. *v. n.* To make a great clatter or noise: whence
swashbuckler.
We'll have a *swashing* and a martial outside,
As many other mannish cowards have,
That do outface it with their semblances. *Shakespeare.*
Draw, if you be men: Gregory, remember thy *swashing*
blow. *Shak. Romeo and Juliet.*
- SWASHER. *n. f.* [from *swash*.] One who makes a show of
valour or force of arms.
I have observed these three *swashers*; three such anticks do
not amount to a man. *Shakespeare. Henry V.*
- SWATH. *n. f.* A swath. Not in use.
- SWATH. *n. f.* [from *swath*, Dutch.]
1. A line of grass cut down by the mower.
With tossing and raking, and setting on cox,
Grass, lately in *swathes*, is meat for an ox. *Tupper.*
The strawy Greeks, ripe for his edge,
Fall down before him, like the mower's *swath*. *Shakespeare.*
As soon as your grass is mown, if it lie thick in the *swath*,
neither air nor sun can pass freely through it. *Mortimer.*
2. A continued quantity.
An affection'd ass, that cons state without book, and utters
it by great *swaths*. *Shak. Twelfth Night.*
3. [Sweban, to bind, Saxon.] A band; a fillet.
An Indian comb, a stick whereof is cut into three sharp and
round teeth four inches long: the other part is left for the
handle, adorned with fine straws laid along the sides, and
lapped round about it in several distinct *swaths*. *Greiv.*
They *swaddled* me up in my night-gown with long pieces of
linen, which they folded about me, till they had wrapped me
in above an hundred yards of *swathe*. *Addison's Spectator.*
- TO SWATHE. *v. a.* [Irish, Saxon.] To bind, as a child
with bands and rollers.
Thrice hath this Hotspur, Mars in *swathing* cloaths,
This infant warrior, and his enterprizes, *Shak. Henry IV.*
Discomfited great Douglas.
He had two sons; the eldest of them at three years old,
I th' *swathing* cloaths the other, from their nursery
Were stol'n. *Shakespeare. Cymbeline.*
Their children are never *swathed*, or bound about with any
thing, when they are first born; but are put naked into the bed
with their parents to lie. *Asket's Description of the World.*
Swath'd in her lap the bold nurse bore him out, *Dryden.*
With olive branches cover'd round about.
Master's feet are *swath'd* no longer,
If in the night too oft he kicks, *Prior.*
Or shows his loco-motive tricks.
- TO SWAY. *v. a.* [from *schweben*, German, to move.]
1. To wave in the hand; to move or wield with facility: as, to
sway the scepter.
Glancing fire out of the iron play'd,
As sparkles from the anvil rise,
When heavy hammers on the wedge are *sway'd*. *Fair Queen.*